WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An electronic device, comprising:

one or more slots configured to receive at least one peripheral adapter;

a software module configured to provide a graphical user interface that indicates whether a selected slot in the electronic device is configured to support a hot input function; and

one or more hardware modules in the electronic device configured to control the power to the selected slot.

2.   The system of Claim 1, wherein the electronic device is configured to suspend and resume communication to and from the adapter location in response to a user request to perform the hot insert function.

3.   The system of Claim 1, wherein the electronic device includes a component for enabling and disabling power to the selected slot.

4.   A system allowing replacement or insertion of an adapter in a electronic device, comprising:

an electronic device;

a user interface module; and

at least one module configured to communicate with the user interface module and inform the user interface module as to whether a selected adapter location in the electronic device is configured to support a hot input function, the module additionally configured to transmit instructions regarding the hot insert of an adapter in the electronic device.

5.   The system as defined in claim 4, wherein the user interface module comprises a graphical user interface.

6.   The system as defined in claim 4, wherein the user interface module comprises a series of screen displays exhibiting the steps to hot insert the adapter in the electronic device.

7.   The system as defined in claim 4, wherein one of the transmitted instructions is for the electronic device to isolate a particular adapter location.

8.   The system as defined in claim 7, wherein one of the transmitted instructions is for the electronic device to confirm that a particular adapter location permits a hot insert function.

9.   The system as defined in claim 7, wherein one of the instructions is for the electronic device to suspend or restart a peripheral adapter.

10.   The system as defined in claim 7, wherein one of the instructions is for the electronic device to suspend or restart power to an adapter location in the electronic device.

11.   The system as defined in claim 7, wherein one of the instructions is for the electronic device to initialize an adapter.

12.   A system allowing replacement or insertion of an adapter in an electronic device, comprising:

an electronic device;

means for providing a graphical user interface;

means for hot inserting an adapter in the electronic device;

the graphical user interface including means for displaying the steps to hot insert an adapter; and

means in communication with the graphical user interface communicating information as to whether a selected adapter location is configured to support a hot insert function and for hot inserting an adapter.

13.   The system as defined in claim 12, wherein the means in communication with the graphical user interface for hot inserting an adapter comprises a plurality of software object modules.

14.   A program storage device storing instructions executable by a electronic device, comprising:

executable code for providing a graphical user interface; and

executable code delivering instructions to a electronic device to confirm that a particular adapter location is configured to support a hot insert function and to hot insert a peripheral adapter.

15.   The program storage device as defined in claim 14, wherein the code is capable of functioning in an object-oriented environment.

16. A electronic device for hot inserting an adapter, comprising:

an electronic device and one or more peripheral adapters;

a configuration manager capable of freezing communications between the electronic device and the peripheral adapters;

a power management module capable of issuing commands to enable and disable the power to the peripheral adapters; and

a graphical user interface delivering instructions to confirm that a particular adapter location is configured to support a hot insert function.

17. The system as defined in claim 16, wherein the one or more peripheral adapters comprise I/O devices.

18. An electronic device comprising:

an electronic device; and

a graphical user interface configured to provide one or more screen displays for communicating information to a user as to whether an selected adapter location is configured to support a hot insert function and for displaying information regarding the steps for hot inserting an adapter.

19. The electronic device of Claim 18, wherein the electronic device includes a device for disabling and enabling power to the selected adapter location.

20. The electronic device of Claim 18, wherein the operational electronic device is configured to suspend and resume communication to and from the adapter location in response to a user request to perform the hot insert function.

21. A method comprising:

displaying on a display device a graphical user interface configured to provide one or more screen displays for communicating information to a user as to whether a selected adapter location is configured to support a hot insert function.

22. The method of Claim 21, additionally comprising suspending and resuming communications to and from the adapter location in response to a user request to perform the hot insert function.

23.   The method of Claim 21, additionally comprising disabling and enabling power to the selected adapter location in response to a user request to perform the hot insert function.

24.   A system comprising:

means for displaying a graphical user interface that provides one or more screen displays for communicating information to a user as to whether an selected adapter location in an operational computer is configured to support a hot insert function.

25.   The system of Claim 24, wherein the operational computer is configured to suspend and resume communication to and from the adapter location in response to a user request to perform the hot insert function.

26.   The system of Claim 24, wherein the operational electronic device includes a device for enabling and disabling power to the selected adapter location.

27.   An electronic device, comprising:

a canister having a plurality of slots, each of the slots being configured to receive a respective peripheral adapter; and

a software module configured to disable and enable power to each of the slots in the canister in response to a user request to add another peripheral device to one of the slots.

28.   The electronic device of Claim 27, wherein the software module is configured to suspend communication to each of the peripheral adapters in the canister in response to the user request to add the peripheral device in one of the slots.